RB

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -x

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

- v. - : **INDICTMENT**

ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, : 05 Cr.
a/k/a "Alex,"
CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, : **05 CRIM. 327**
a/k/a "David,"
IOSEB KHARABADZE, :
a/k/a "Soso,"
JOSEPH COLPANI, :
a/k/a "Joe,"
MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, :
a/k/a "Michel,"
ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, :
SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN,
DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, :
a/k/a "Dima,"
NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, :
a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili,"
a/k/a "Nikush," :
LEVON SOLOMONYAN,
ALLAH McQUEEN, :
RAJAB CHAVIS,
a/k/a "Jabs," :
a/k/a "Keith Chavis,"
GAREGIN GASPARYAN, :
a/k/a "Garik,"
MICHAEL JIMENEZ, :
a/k/a "Mike,"
NIEMAN MYLES, :
a/k/a "Shawn Jones,"
a/k/a "Luis," :
WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS,
a/k/a "Coy," :
a/k/a "Cory,"
LEVAN CHVELIDZE,
VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE,
a/k/a "Vato,"
TIGRAN GEVORGYAN,
a/k/a "Tiko," and
ARMAND ABRAMIAN,
a/k/a "Armo,"

Defendants. :
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -x

USDC SDNY
DOCUMENT
ELECTRONICALLY FILED
DOC #: ____
DATE FILED: MAR 28 2005

COUNT ONE

(Arms Trafficking Conspiracy)

The Grand Jury charges:

1. From in or about December 2003, up to and including on or about March 14, 2005, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," IOSEB KHARABADZE, a/k/a "Soso," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, and SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN, the defendants, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit offenses against the United States, to wit, to violate Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(1)(A)(ii)(I) and (IV) and (c), Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 127.1(d), 129.3, 129.6, and 129.7, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(4).

2. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," IOSEB KHARABADZE, a/k/a "Soso," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, and SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN, the defendants, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly would and did engage in the business of brokering activities with respect to the import and transfer of foreign defense articles,

to wit, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles of foreign origin, rocket propelled grenade launchers of foreign origin, anti-tank guided missiles and launchers of foreign origin, 120 mm mortar launchers of foreign origin, 73 mm recoilless anti-tank guns of foreign origin, and machineguns and other assault weapons of foreign origin, which were non-United States defense articles of a nature described on the United States Munitions List, without having first registered with and obtained from the Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls a license for such brokering and written authorization for such brokering, in violation of Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(1)(A)(ii)(I) and (IV) and (c), and Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 127.1(d), 129.3, 129.6, and 129.7.

3. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," IOSEB KHARABADZE, a/k/a "Soso," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, and SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN, the defendants, and others known and unknown, not being licensed importers, licensed manufacturers, licensed dealers, and licensed collectors, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly would and did transport in interstate and foreign commerce a destructive

device, without authorization from the Attorney General, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(4).

OVERT ACTS

4. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about June 8, 2004, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," had a telephone conversation with IOSEB KHARABADZE, a/k/a "Soso," who was in New York, New York.

b. On or about June 9, 2004, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," had a meeting with CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," and a confidential informant ("CI") working under the supervision of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in New York, New York.

c. On or about December 7, 2004, JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," had a telephone conversation with MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel."

d. On or about December 15, 2004, CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," had a meeting with JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," and the CI in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

e. On or about December 27, 2004, ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN had a telephone conversation with ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex."

f. On or about January 26, 2005, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," had a meeting with CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," and the CI in New York, New York.

g. On or about January 28, 2005, SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN had a telephone conversation with ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex."

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.)

COUNT TWO

(Arms Trafficking)

The Grand Jury further charges:

5. From in or about December 2003, up to and including on or about March 14, 2005, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," IOSEB KHARABADZE, a/k/a "Soso," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, and SPARTAK VAHAGN YERIBEKYAN, the defendants, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did engage in the business of brokering activities with respect to the import and transfer of foreign defense articles, to wit, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles of foreign origin, rocket propelled grenade launchers of foreign origin, anti-tank guided missiles and launchers of foreign origin, 120 mm mortar launchers of foreign origin, 73 mm recoilless anti-tank guns of foreign origin, and machineguns and

other assault weapons of foreign origin, which were non-United States defense articles of a nature described on the United States Munitions List, without having first registered with and obtained from the Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls a license for such brokering and written authorization for such brokering.

(Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(1)(A)(ii)(I) and (IV) and (c), Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 121.1, 127.1(d), 129.3, 129.6, and 129.7, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.)

COUNT THREE

(Firearms Trafficking Conspiracy)

The Grand Jury further charges:

6. From in or about December 2003, up to and including on or about March 14, 2005, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima," NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," LEVON SOLOMONYAN, ALLAH MCQUEEN, RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis," WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," LEVAN CHVELIDZE, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato," TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," and ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," the defendants, and others known and

unknown, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did combine, conspire, confederate, and agree together and with each other to commit offenses against the United States, to wit, to violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(1)(A) and 922(o).

7. It was a part and an object of the conspiracy that ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima," NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," LEVON SOLOMONYAN, ALLAH MCQUEEN, RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis," WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," LEVAN CHVELIDZE, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato," TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," and ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," the defendants, and others known and unknown, not being licensed importers, licensed manufacturers, and licensed dealers, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly would and did engage in the business of importing, manufacturing and dealing in firearms, and in the course of such business would and did ship, transport, and receive firearms in interstate and foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(a)(1)(A).

8. It was further a part and an object of the conspiracy that ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET

SPIES, a/k/a "David," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima," NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," LEVON SOLOMONYAN, ALLAH MCQUEEN, RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis," WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," LEVAN CHVELIDZE, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato," TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," and ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," the defendants, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly would and did transfer and possess a machinegun, as that term is defined in Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(b), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(o).

OVERT ACTS

9. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the illegal objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere:

a. On or about July 17, 2004, CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," engaged in a telephone conversation about machineguns.

b. On or about August 4, 2004, NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

c. On or about August 15, 2004, RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

d. On or about August 15, 2004, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," engaged in a telephone conversation about machineguns.

e. On or about September 11, 2004, NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

f. On or about September 12, 2004, LEVAN CHVELIDZE had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

g. On or about September 13, 2004, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

h. On or about September 14, 2004, GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

i. On or about September 19, 2004, ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

j. On or about September 22, 2004, LEVON SOLOMONYAN had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

k. On or about September 22, 2004, WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," had a telephone conversation about converting a firearm into a machinegun.

l. On or about September 23, 2004, MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," had a telephone conversation about converting a firearm into a machinegun.

m. On or about September 30, 2004, DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima," had a telephone conversation about a machinegun.

n. On or about November 3, 2004, ALLAH MCQUEEN had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

o. On or about November 6, 2004, ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

p. On or about November 10, 2004, TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," had a telephone conversation about machineguns.

q. On or about December 2, 2004, JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," engaged in a telephone conversation about machineguns.

r. On or about December 2, 2004, MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," met with JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe."

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.)

## COUNT FOUR

(Firearms Trafficking)

The Grand Jury further charges:

10. From in or about December 2003, up to and including on or about March 14, 2005, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima," NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," LEVON SOLOMONYAN, ALLAH MCQUEEN, RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis," WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," LEVAN CHVELIDZE, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato," TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," and ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," the defendants, and others known and unknown, not being licensed importers, licensed manufacturers, and licensed dealers, unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly, did engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, and dealing in firearms, and in the course of such business did ship, transport, and receive firearms, in interstate and foreign commerce, and in furtherance of this purpose, did travel from a State into another State, and did acquire and attempt to acquire a firearm in such other State, to wit, the defendants traveled

and caused others to travel to New York, Florida and California, for the purpose of trafficking in firearms.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(a)(1)(A), 924(m), and 2.)

COUNT FIVE

(Illegal Transfer and Possession of a Machinegun)

The Grand Jury further charges:

11. From in or about August 2004, up to and including in or about September 2004, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN, LEVON SOLOMONYAN, GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike," WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," the defendants, and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly did transfer and possess a machinegun, as that term is defined in Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(b).

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(o) and 2.)

COUNT SIX

(Illegal Transfer and Possession of a Machinegun)

The Grand Jury further charges:

12. From in or about November 2004, up to and including in or about December 2004, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe," and MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel," the defendants,

and others known and unknown, unlawfully, willfully and knowingly did transfer and possess a machinegun, as that term is defined in Title 26, United States Code, Section 5845(b).

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(o) and 2.)

COUNT SEVEN

(Illegal Aliens In Possession of Firearms)

The Grand Jury further charges:

13. On or about November 5, 2004, in the Southern District of New York, ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex," and CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David," the defendants, being aliens illegally and unlawfully in the United States, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly did possess in and affecting commerce, a firearm, to wit, an Interdynamic Model KG-9, 9 millimeter handgun, which had previously been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(5) and 2.)

COUNT EIGHT

(Illegal Transport of Firearm By a Felon)

The Grand Jury further charges:

14. From in or about August 2004, up to and including in or about September 2004, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik," the defendant, after having been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to wit, a 1999

conviction for burglary in the second degree, in California Superior Court, unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly did ship and transport in interstate and foreign commerce a firearm, to wit, an SKS fully-automatic assault rifle, which had been previously shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 2.)

COUNT NINE

(Illegal Transport of Firearm By a Felon)

The Grand Jury further charges:

15. From in or about August 2004, up to and including in or about September 2004, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Corey," the defendant, after having been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to wit, a 1990 conviction for burglary in the second degree, in California Superior Court, unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly did ship and transport in interstate and foreign commerce a firearm, to wit, an SKS fully-automatic assault rifle, which had been previously shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 2.)

COUNT TEN

(Illegal Transport of Firearm By a Felon)

The Grand Jury further charges:

16. In or about November 2004, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo," the defendant, after having been convicted in a court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, to wit, a 2001 conviction for burglary, in California Superior Court, unlawfully, wilfully, and knowingly did ship and transport in interstate and foreign commerce a firearm, to wit, a Norinco MA-90 Sporter, which had been previously shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce.

(Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(g)(1) and 2.)

FOREPERSON

DAVID N. KELLEY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Form No. USA-33s-274 (Ed. 9-25-58)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
**SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**- v -**

**ARTUR SOLOMONYAN, a/k/a "Alex,"**
**CHRISTIAAN DEWET SPIES, a/k/a "David,"**
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**JOSEPH COLPANI, a/k/a "Joe,"**
**MICHAEL GUY DEMARE, a/k/a "Michel,"**
**ARMEN RAZMIK BARSEGHYAN,**
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**DMITRIY VOROBEYCHIK, a/k/a "Dima,"**
**NIKOLAI NADIRASHVILI, a/k/a "Nikoloz Nadirashvili," a/k/a "Nikush," LEVON SOLOMONYAN, ALLAH McQUEEN,**
**RAJAB CHAVIS, a/k/a "Jabs," a/k/a "Keith Chavis,"**
**GAREGIN GASPARYAN, a/k/a "Garik,"**
**MICHAEL JIMENEZ, a/k/a "Mike,"**
**NIEMAN MYLES, a/k/a "Shawn Jones," a/k/a "Luis,"**
**WILLIAM JESUS THOMAS, a/k/a "Coy," a/k/a "Cory,"**
**LEVAN CHVELIDZE, VAKHTANG MACHITIDZE, a/k/a "Vato,"**
**TIGRAN GEVORGYAN, a/k/a "Tiko," and**
**ARMAND ABRAMIAN, a/k/a "Armo,"**

**Defendants.**

**INDICTMENT**

05 Cr.

(Title 18, U.S.C. §§ 371, 922(a)(1)(A), 924(m), 922(o), 922(g)(5), 922(g)(1), and 2, and Title 22, U.S.C. §§ 2778(b)(1)(A)(ii)(I) and (IV) and (c), Title 22, C.F.R. §§ 121.1, 127.1(d), 129.3, 129.6, and 129.7)

DAVID N. KELLEY
United States Attorney.

**A TRUE BILL**

Foreperson.